



# Transportation Outlook

May, 2005

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## Transportation Director Sworn in for Second Term

On Wednesday, April 27, 2005 Alfred H. Foxx was sworn in for a second term as Director of Baltimore City's Department of Transportation. Surrounded by members of City Council and Transportation personnel in the Ceremonial Room of City Hall, Mr. Foxx proudly took the oath of Director.

"We will continue to make progress for the citizens of Baltimore," Foxx declared, after being officially sworn in by Mayor Martin O'Malley. "The Department of Transportation has made significant progress, but there is still a great deal of work that needs

to be done to improve the transportation infrastructure."

Alfred H. Foxx joined Baltimore City government back in 2001 when he was appointed Director of the Office of Transportation by Mayor O'Malley. By order of a city ordinance, the Office of Transportation officially became a department within Baltimore City government in March of 2003, so that the agency could take the lead on transportation issues and better enhance the city's infrastructure.

Director Foxx is committed to addressing the access and mobility needs of Baltimore by developing



innovative strategies to improve the city's infrastructure. As Director of the Department of Transportation, Mr. Foxx is responsible for over 1,900 miles of roadway, a workforce of over 1,500 employees and an operating budget of \$130 million.

## Charles Street Project Receives Engineering Excellence Award

What an exciting day it was for the Department of Transportation, as the Charles Street Streetscape project, Phase II received an engineering award of excellence. On February 24, 2005, the Maryland Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies presented the plaque to Transportation Director Al Foxx at its annual "Excellence in Engineering" awards banquet. Twelve Maryland projects were entered in the competition, and Charles Street was one of three projects to receive the prestigious award.

Phase II of the Charles Street Streetscape project from Saratoga to Centre Streets was completed in May, 2004 at a cost of \$3.8 million. In order to bring the project to fruition, the Department of Transportation part-

nered with the Downtown Partnership and EBA Engineering to transform the oldest major thoroughfare of Baltimore into an attractive, yet functional street. A positive working relationship also had to be established with the surrounding business community, so that the reconstruction would foster a pedestrian friendly environment along this important retail corridor.

The project featured attractive brick paved sidewalks lined with granite curbs. Ornamental light fixtures, street furniture and planters now enhance business storefronts and add to the historical appeal of the area. New traffic signals, signage and landscaping were also installed and the roadway was resurfaced using Suprapave technology. For the

first time in Baltimore City, the new EZ Meters were installed as part of a pilot parking program and were very well received.

TEC Chief Robert Powers, along with Project Supervisor Rick Vosburg and Lead Inspector Frank Cullota attended the event with Director Foxx. Congratulations on a job well done!



## Everybody Loves a Picnic!

The Department of Transportation will be hosting its first department-wide summer picnic on July 30, 2005 in Druid Hill Park. Come join your friends and fellow employees from Transportation for a day full of fun, food and entertainment. Tickets are \$25 per family of four or \$7 each. Be sure to dust off your old bat and glove for a friendly game of softball. The highlight of the day will surely be the all-women's softball team! Call (410) 361-9296 or (410) 396-1311 for more information.



## Baltimore Working Proactively to Ease Traffic Woes



According to a recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute, traffic problems are worsening nationwide.

Earlier this month, *The Sun* published an article stating that Baltimore was among the nation's worst areas for traffic congestion, according to a recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute. The study concluded that traffic problems in metropolitan areas are worsening nationwide, with delays costing commuters millions in travel time and fuel consumption.

Traffic bottlenecks plague not just Baltimore City, but the entire Baltimore region, affecting commuters on many of the area's major arteries. Like other metropolitan areas nationwide, the City of Baltimore has very limited opportunities to increase traffic capacity on the majority of its roadways. As we continue to rehabilitate the city, we experience the growing pains associated with new development, such as roadway construction, crowded thoroughfares and longer commute times. The Department of Transportation has taken a proactive approach to easing traffic woes, by developing a multi-faceted program for traffic management and incident response.

In August of 2003, the city

launched one of the largest city-wide advanced transportation management system projects in the country. At a cost of over \$21 million, the city began replacing all of its 1,210 traffic signal controllers with new, state-of-the-art equipment. After the controllers are installed, Baltimore will embark on a major signal retiming effort in order to enhance the new signal controllers. Commuters will then begin to see a reduction in delays, better management of traffic congestion and improved response time for incident management.

The Department of Transportation has also begun a traffic signal integrator project in order to synchronize and control traffic signals. This integrator will be housed in a new, central Traffic Management Center which is currently under design. And later this year, additional traffic surveillance cameras will be installed at key intersections throughout the city for real-time monitoring of traffic conditions. These technical improvements will further enhance the city's traffic management program, allowing for quick, immediate response.

In addition to the new technology,

the Department of Transportation deploys Special Traffic Enforcement Officers (STEO's) to improve the flow of traffic in the downtown area. The STEO's play a vital role in the Central Business District, as they direct traffic during peak hour travel times, assist with special events and provide immediate response to traffic incidents.

A major component to managing overcrowded thoroughfares is mass transit. The city is working closely with the MTA to examine and improve the regional transit system. Currently in the planning stages is the addition of a new east to west transit line called the Red Line, which is an essential transportation link greatly needed in Baltimore. The City is also working with the MTA on the Greater Baltimore Bus Initiative, in order to refurbish and enhance the regional bus system for commuters.

As we work towards improving traffic conditions in Baltimore City, the Department of Transportation maintains its commitment to ensuring that the transportation system is capable of providing safe and efficient movement within the city and to the surrounding region.

## May is Clean Commute Month

In an effort to reduce air pollution and increase public awareness of the alternative forms of commuting, the Clean Commute Partnership and the Baltimore City Rideshare Program sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Commute Month this May, 2005.

The Baltimore region has a severe air pollution problem, which affects the health and well-being of its citizens. The mission of Clean Commute Month is to educate the public on the relationship between driving and air quality; raise public awareness of the alternative forms of commuting and their benefits; and to encourage the use of alternative

commute options.

Clean Commute Month was kicked off with 'Bike to Work Day' events held on May 06, 2005. Baltimore's Bike to Work Day took place from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. City Council President Sheila Dixon addressed the crowd while cyclists enjoyed refreshments and entered drawings to win great prizes. Bike to Work Day events were also held in Annapolis, Towson and Bel Air.

With the warm summer months ahead, be sure to listen for Air Quality Action Days. These are days when the air quality is poor due to high

levels of ground level ozone and particulate pollution. During 'Air Quality Action Days', citizens are encouraged to take action to protect their health and to reduce pollution-causing activities.

So this month, leave your car at home and try getting around another way. Take mass transit or share a ride with a friend. Try biking or walking. You can cut your commute costs in half while helping to reduce air pollution in Baltimore. For more information on clean commute activities, log onto [www.CleanCommute.com](http://www.CleanCommute.com).



## Transportation Achieves Many Goals in Annapolis

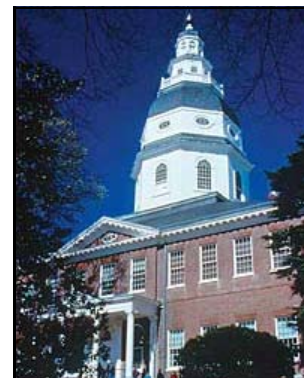
This year's Maryland General Assembly legislative session ended in April and Baltimore achieved many of its goals in Annapolis. The Baltimore Regional Transportation Plan received a huge boost during this year's session when the Maryland General Assembly approved the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) which covers fiscal years 2005 through 2010. The CTP includes an additional \$232 million for the Red Line and \$10 million for the Green Line. This year alone, over \$12 million will be spent on planning for the Red and Green Lines. In addition to previous allocations, funding for both projects now totals \$248.4 million.

Despite a slight reduction in

local highway user revenues as part of the effort to balance the State budget, the city will receive \$23 million in additional revenue during fiscal 2006 mainly due to the transportation revenue measure passed in 2004. In addition, the budget includes language allowing the State to spend \$1 million in previously approved federal funds to complete the environmental impact statement for the Baltimore-Washington Maglev (Magnetic Levitation) high-speed train.

The Department of Transportation would like to thank Baltimore's legislative delegation in Annapolis for working hard to provide the City of Baltimore with a comprehensive and modern transportation system.

In addition to State funding of transportation related projects, the Department of Transportation and the Mayor's Office is working closely with our US congressional delegation to secure funding in this year's Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) which reauthorizes federal transit and highway programs. Currently, the bill, which provides funding through 2009, authorizes \$293.8 billion in the version passed by the Senate (the House version is slightly less) and is headed for conference committee. Funding from this measure will help to modernize the City's transportation infrastructure and help develop a world-class transit system.



The Maryland General Assembly legislative session ended this April in Annapolis.

## The Construction Season is in Full Swing

With the winter months now behind us, the Department of Transportation is pleased to announce that the construction season is in full swing. Motorists and pedestrians alike will notice a large number of construction projects throughout the city, in order to improve roadways and sidewalks for the citizens of Baltimore.

The construction season typically runs from March through early December each year.

Construction is usually suspended during the winter months when temperatures drop too low and hot mix asphalt plants close for the season.

But with the warmer weather, many projects are now underway and motorists should exercise caution when driving through work zones. Narrow or closed lanes, unusual traffic patterns and all sorts of construction equipment can make for some difficult maneuvers along city roadways. Commut-

ers should also be watchful of the many construction workers and inspectors who are out on city streets each day.

For the latest in road closure and detour information related to construction projects in Baltimore City, be sure to log onto [www.BaltimoreCity.gov](http://www.BaltimoreCity.gov) and click on Transportation. The Department of Transportation is committed to improving the roadway network for the citizens of Baltimore!

### Current Construction Projects in Baltimore City:

Russell Street Bridge  
Monroe Street Viaduct  
Potee Street Bridge  
Franklintown Road Bridge  
President Street Crosswalks at  
Fayette and Pratt Streets  
Fayette Street Streetscape Project  
Washington Boulevard Resurfacing  
Bel Air Road and Erdman Avenue  
Resurfacing  
Bowleys Lane Resurfacing  
Wicomico Street Resurfacing  
Replacement of the Clinton Street  
Bulkhead  
North Avenue Reconstruction

...plus many more!

## Kenneth Strong Appointed New Chief of Safety

The Department of Transportation is pleased to announce that Mr. Kenneth Strong has been appointed to the position of Chief of the Safety Division, effective May 16, 2005. Mr. Strong is a welcome asset to the multi-faceted Safety Division, who exhibits the skills and leadership necessary to carry

out the goals and objectives of the Department.

Kenneth Strong is no stranger to city government. He comes to Transportation from the Department of Housing and Community Development, where he served as Director of the Office of Homeownership.

He also held positions with the Bureau of Solid Waste and the City's Planning Commission.

We look forward to working with you, as the Safety Division continues to provide such essential services for the citizens of Baltimore. Welcome aboard Mr. Strong!



Mr. Kenneth Strong has been appointed as the new Chief of the Safety Division.





Baltimore City  
Department of Transportation  
Alfred H. Foxx, Director  
417 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Phone: 410-396-6802  
Fax: 410-547-1036

#### BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



(410) 396-POOL

Department of Transportation  
Public Information Office  
Contact: David Brown  
Kathy Chopper  
Office: 410-361-9296  
Fax: 410-547-1036

**BELIEVE**

## Transportation to Host 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Design and Construction Presentation

The Department of Transportation will hold its third annual Design and Construction Presentation on June 27, 2005. This year, Transportation is pleased to announce that it will partner with the Departments of Public Works, Recreation and Parks and Housing and Community Development in order to showcase over \$100 million in combined projects to the consulting and contracting communities.

The presentation will be held from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. at the Morgan State University

School of Engineering Amphitheater located at 5200 Perring Parkway. Congressman Elijah Cummings will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Representatives from the City's Boards and Commissions Office along with the Office of Minority Business will be available to talk with local businesses about the certification and bidding processes. Each agency will also staff a booth in the lobby of the Amphitheater to meet with company representatives and discuss the various design and construction projects offered this fiscal year.

The event promises to be bigger and better than ever, as the Department of Transportation partners with DPW, Recreation and Parks and Housing and Community Development to reach out to the growing number of firms interested in conducting business with the City of Baltimore.



## Transportation Personnel Help Fight Illiteracy in Baltimore

The City of Baltimore held its third annual 'Need to Read' event on Thursday, April 07, 2005. The read-a-thon was sponsored by Mayor Martin O'Malley, Catherine E. Pugh and the Baltimore Reads program, which is a private, non-profit organization designed to promote literacy in the City of Baltimore.

Employees from various city

agencies participated in the 'Need to Read' event by collecting pledges from sponsors, based on how many minutes they read. Proceeds from the event benefited the Ripkin Adult Learning Center and each 'Need to Read' participant received an event tee shirt.

It was a fun-filled afternoon as Director Foxx and transportation personnel read aloud

tongue twisters from Dr. Seuss' **Fox in Sox** book to help raise money for this worthwhile cause. Together, Transportation employees raised over \$180 to help stamp out illiteracy and improve the lives of educationally disadvantaged adults.



## Proceed With Caution as Children Will Soon Be Out of School

As we gear up for the busy summer travel season that lies ahead, the Department of Transportation wants to remind you to drive safely while out on the roadways. Children will soon be out of school and motorists should obey the posted speed limits while driving through city communities. Drivers should be particularly watchful of children playing in the street, riding bicycles or

darting out from between parked cars.

If you are a parent, now is a great time to remind your children to use pedestrian crosswalks while crossing the street and to avoid playing in roadways or alleys.

Remember, Maryland law requires the use of seatbelts and child safety seats. So when you

take to the streets of Baltimore this summer, be sure to buckle up for safety! Together, we can all help **"keep Baltimore moving safely"** throughout the busy summer months!

